Avenue canteen of MPs. The performance of canteen has been satisfactory. Management of South avenue canteen has been licensed out to a private licensee by the Lok Sabha Secretarial since July 2001. As regards catering services in Shramjeevi and Lichhvi Express trains, the services are managed through private licensees and the food is supplied to the travelling passergers as pe prescribed norms. Complaints received are investigated and disciplinary/punitive action taken against the defaulters, wherever deficiencies are detected.

(c) Railway monitors the catering services in railway canteens/trains through inspections at different levels and are making every endeavour to improve the quality and standard of food and beverages.

Passengers Travelling on Roofs of Coaches

† 2099. DR A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of passengers found travelling on the roofs of coaches during the last two years; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to prevent such travel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) State-wise figures arc not maintained However, as result of regular checks conducted against rooftop travelling during the last two years i.e. 1999-2000 and 2000-2001,3951 and 4242 persons respectively were apprehended.

(b) Rooftop travelling is a punishable offence under the Railways Act. Apart from the regular checks, extensive publicity is given through various media including public address Systran to educate the travelling public about the perils of such travel. Notices are also displayed inside the compartments. The progressive electrification of railway routes is also a deterrent for such hazardous travel.

Interim Speed Certificate for Rail Rolling Stocks

2100. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the definition of Interim Speed Certificate issued to rolling stocks, prior to issuance of final speed certificate;

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.